

REMARKS

Claims 2-39 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 7-8, and 38 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claim 1 is canceled. Claims 5, 11, 33, 36, and 38-39 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 11-37 and 39 are allowed. However, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 5-6 and 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, this Amendment cancels claims 1, rewrites 5 into independent form including all of the limitation of canceled claim 1, amends claims 2-4 and 7-8 to depend from independent claim 5, and amends claim 38 to incorporate the features of allowable claim 5.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-39, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance,

the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

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